

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action issued February 3, 2004. Claims 1-47 are pending in the application. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 29, 46 and 47. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following is respectfully requested.

A. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 29 and 46 for informalities in the respective claims. The Applicants have amended claims 29 and 46 to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Rejection under 35 USC 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-47 under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 29, 46, and 47 to recite, inter alia, that a query is specified, that the query is provided to a first filter and that objects are selected for inclusion in a result set. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection under 35 USC 112

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-47 are abstract ideas or a mathematical algorithm with no practical utility. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 29, 46 and, 47 to clearly indicate that first objects are included or excluded from a final result set based upon confirmation that objects satisfy a filter step used to determine the existence of a desired relationship between the objects and another object. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

D. Conclusion

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions about this Amendment and to facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 referencing 19111.0042.

Respectfully submitted,

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